

ISUOG-WFUMB statement on the non-medical use of ultrasound, 2011

Bioeffects and Safety Committee (K. SALVESEN, C. LEES, J. ABRAMOWICZ, C. BREZINKA, G. TER HAAR and K. MARŠÁL) on behalf of the Board of the International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology (ISUOG)

Statement

The International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology (ISUOG) and World Federation of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (WFUMB) disapprove of the use of ultrasound for the sole purpose of providing souvenir images of the fetus. There have been no reported incidents of human fetal harm in over 40 years of extensive use of medically indicated and supervised diagnostic ultrasound. Nevertheless, ultrasound involves exposure to a form of energy, so there is the potential to initiate biological effects. Some of these effects might, under certain circumstances, be detrimental to the developing fetus.

Therefore, the uncontrolled use of ultrasound without medical benefit should be avoided. Furthermore, ultrasound should be employed only by health professionals who are trained and updated in the clinical usage and bioeffects of ultrasound.

Comment

This statement was approved by the ISUOG Board in September 2011 and by the WFUMB Council in August 2011.

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